GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3373
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Plastic Packaging for Food
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set standards for safe plastic packaging for food, beverages and medicines and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to redress the issue of leaching of heavy metals in popular beverages and medicines packaged in Polyethylene terephthalate bottles as highlighted in recent Government testing reports; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

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(a) : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published twenty two (22) Indian Standards for plastic packaging of food items, beverages, pharmaceuticals etc. These Indian Standards on plastic packaging material are on packaging of ophthalmic preparations, vanaspati, edible oil, packaged drinking water etc. Besides, BIS has also published Indian Standards on High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/ Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks for packing foodgrains, sugar, fruits and vegetables etc.

(b)&(c) : BIS has published Indian Standard IS 12229:1987 which, interalia, prescribes the maximum limit of heavy metals in packaging material in contact with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water.
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